G. R. S. IX-5]

Previous references.

1919-20.
(P.P)

File No. 6-19

Serial Nos. ~~I, I~~ 239
245, 413.

Later references.

P. P. 6-10 [illegible]

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

Serial Nos.

Part B for Nov 20.

SUBJECT.

Food Supply arrangements.

(413) To, The Rev Comr
" Food Controller in Mysore
" Dy Comr, Kolar Dist
" Comptr-G Gost
" Secy to Govt, Rev Dept.

No G 10093-887 23.11.20.

Enclose notice with Certain Observations
Of the Controller of the Officials responsibilities
Responsible for the irregularities in the Supply
Issue of Stock & price at Bangarapet Depot
viz Mr Chakrapanaiya, Sub Dy Asst Controller
Main Dy Mr Narasimhaiya, Merchants
Mr K.R. Ramadas Milk Sheriffs

G. R. S. III—1] 1919. 20

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT.

(L.R)

NOTES.

File No

FILE HEADING.

Food supply arrangement

From

The Dy Comr - Kolar Dt

No. 496 Dated 9/11. 1. 20. Received 13. 1. 20.

Diary No. 120/10 Enclos. one Spare Copies. — Serial No. 200/1

BRIEF ABSTRACT OF LETTER.

Submits for perusal a copy of his Off: Memo dt 9/11. 1. 20 regarding the irregularities in the Srinivaspur Dt office regarding the sale of the stocks of rice by the Sheristadar & states that a further report will be made.

NOTES AND ORDERS.

Submd for perusal. The further report may be awaited.

15/1/20 The irregularities brought to light in the report of the Dt Asst Comr are of a serious nature and show how indifferent the Taluq authorities

NOTES—First Sheet.

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

File No. 6287 of 1919 1919-20

Serial No.

are in regard to ~~winning~~ the duties of the Food Minister instead of the D.C. waiting for the S.D.O's report, it is better that he proceeds to the spot and makes a full enquiry into the matter. The Shirastedar's conduct deserves notice. He may perhaps be placed under suspension pending enquiry into the matter.

MK 6/1/20

Chief Sec'y

It would have been better if the D.C. had made a full enquiry & drawn up definite proposals for punishing officials who had gone wrong. The D.C. maybe asked to ~~complete the enquiry~~ do this at an early date. Perhaps it would have a salutary effect if the Shirastedar is placed under suspension pending enquiry. This maybe done.

Dewan's

CSG 7/1/20

Yes. Complaints have been made to me by the ryots against the Shirastedar. I have spoken personally to the Shirastedar & warned him that he will be dismissed if he does not behave himself & leave the ryots alone in future.

MK 17/1/20

DEWAN'S OFFICE.
Recd. on JAN 17 1920
Reg. No. 4789

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

File No. 6 of 191 9

Serial No.

To Rev Secy with compliments & papers re placing the SHC under suspension

CSK
21/1/20

Draft
hm
19.1.20
CSK

Draft submitted
SPM
19-1-20
Rev Secy

Issue at once, & return file - to Ch. Secte
hm
20.1.20
CSK

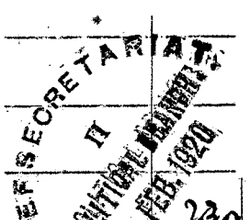
To the Dy Comm, Kolar dt
No: R 8012 d 20.1.20.
with reference 1st cl. requesting him to place the taluk Sheristedar under suspension at once pending outcome of the final report & orders of Govt thereon.
Memo No: R 8012 d 20.1.20.
Forwarded a copy of the above for information. The file may now be returned to Chief Secty
20 Rev
20.1.20

General and Revenue Secretariat. | P. P. File No. 6 of 1919

Serial No.

Draft calling for the further report upon the
matter
3/2/20 Sme 3/2/20

Issued no 9 17914 9. 4. 20.



239

From the Food Controller
D. O. 9 6th Feb 1920
Submits for the information received by him regarding the irregularities in the disposal of rice in the Srinivaspur Sales Depot -

Chief Secy's notes
"Put up with D. C's report & other papers." Intd) C.B
9/2

Both with refers - The DK Shr has been placed under suspension pending the enquiry. A reminder was issued to the D. C. Kolar on the 7th inst calling for further report
Mg 10/2/20.

NED 9/2/20

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. | P. P. File No. 6 of 1917

Serial No.

Submitted for perusal & orders. The J. C's report appears to be only an intermediate report and contains no definite recommendations. But it will be seen from his report that the J.C. does not consider the Sheristedar, now under suspension, solely responsible for this unhappy turn of events in Sreeniwaspur. It would appear that from more than the Sheristedar's negligence, the machinations of the Food clerks, countenanced by the amildar, are responsible for the indecent haste with which the rice bags in the depot were shuffled off to the merchants, without proper safeguard.

In view of the present report, it is a matter for consideration, 1) what action if any should be taken against the Food clerks, whether it is desirable to continue under suspension the Sheristedar, 3) whether it is not necessary to call for the explns. of the Taluk Amildar and the Sub-division. officer for the apparent apathy displayed in regard to a trying situation in which everyone had the clamours running of the poor local people.

Chief Sec'y) 10/2/20

~~Please put up Report~~

15788

6

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General and Revenue Secretariat. | P. P File No. 6 of 1919.

Serial No.

DEWAN'S OFFICE.
Recd. on FEB 10 1920
Reg. No. 5469

The D.C maybe asked to obtain & forward with his remarks the explanations of the Sub-Dr Officer & the Amildar, besides that of the Sheristedar under suspension. The matter should be dealt with quickly.

Dewan
11.2.20

Draft subd
11/2/20

245 To
The Dy Commissioner
Kolar.
G 18737 Dy 14-2-20

In continuation of Se 2 fdo a copy of Se 239 and requests that the explanations of the Sub-Dr Officer, & the Amildar besides that of the Taluk Sheristedar under suspension may be obtained and forwarded with your remarks.

From the D.C Court - Kolar
no 7.C 117 dt 11.2.20
states that the further

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

P. P File No. 6 of 191 9 7

Serial No.

Report regarding the measles at Srinivaspur may be furnished on receipt of the report from the Sub-Off.

Submitted for perusal — further report may be awaited.

hs 17/2/20.

YS 17/2/20

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

R.P File No. 6 of 1919

Serial No.

D.O. letter dt 23.5.20 from the Dy Coll. Kolar stating that enquiry report will be submitted in the matter.

No report having been received, a further D.O reminder is submitted as personally requested by the Chief Secy.

17/6/20

17/6/20

G 27698 dt 18/6

From the Dy Coll. Kolar no C 779/En 7 files dt 4.7.1920 forwards with his observations the entire records in the case.

Chief Secy's notes.

"Send D.O. to T.C. for reminder" Sd/ C.S.B. 6/7/20

No 5 8.7.20

Forwarded with compliments to the Food Controller in Mysore for favour of remarks.

By order

Asst to Chief Secy

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

Recd 8.7.20

R. S. III-2.

General and Revenue Secretariat. | P.P File No. 6 of 1919.

Serial No.

No. 1829
27. 9. 20

Returned, with compliments, to the Chief Secretary. The case has been presented in a manner that is somewhat difficult to follow, and the records are full of marginal notes and comments by the Sub Division Officer and the Deputy Commissioner which have to be perused for a proper understanding of the case. The facts are as follows:-

2. There was a large stock of Burma rice in the Srinivaspur Taluk Depot in the latter part of December 1919. The stock on the 20th December (from which date the Taluk Sheristedar Mr. K. S. Rama Rao was in charge of the taluk owing to the Amildar proceeding on leave) was 1366 pallas. The sales from the 20th to the 26th December totalled 92.61 pallas. Between the 27th and 31st December the sales were 1248.54 pallas, of which 1231.20 pallas were sold off wholesale and the retail sales totalled 17.34 pallas.

3. In the month of December 1919, it was the intention of Government to close the Government depots for the sale of rice from the end of that month. A resolution of the Central Food Supplies Committee that Burma ~~whole~~ rice in stock may be sold off as fast as possible to co-operative societies and merchants was approved by the Government in their order No. G.12656-70 dated 2nd December 1919. The quick disposal of the rice in the Srinivaspur depot in the last week of that month would not therei

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

therefore have been in any way objectionable were it not for the fact that at the District Food Supply Committee Meeting held on the 20th December 1919 (at which there was present the Sub Division Officer of Chintamani, who subsequently stayed in Srinivaspur on the 24th and 25th idem) it was definitely decided (1) that the proposal of the Amildar of Srinivaspur and the Sub Division Officer of Chintamani to sell 1,000 bags out of the Srinivaspur taluk Depot stocks to two merchants of Madanapalle (Madras Presidency) be negatived, (2) that some 200 or 300 bags should be kept in the Srinivaspur depot and (3) that about 1300 bags should be made available from Srinivaspur for the Mulbagal Depot. From this fact, taken with certain other circumstances referred to below, the Deputy Commissioner considers that the rapid disposal of the rice from the depot was done with deliberate dishonest intention.

4. If the decision of the District Food Supply Committee that the depots should not be closed and that available stocks should not be disposed of had been promptly communicated to the taluks, this untoward incident would not have occurred. No orders on the subject seem to have been issued by the Deputy Commissioner, but a D.O. letter was sent by the District Economic Superintendent to the Amildar on the 31st December in the following terms:- "Please defer wholesale sales. Retail sales might continue. Order follows". The Sheristedar says he got this communication at 2-30 P.M. on the 31st December by which time the whole stock had been disposed of. The

The Sub Division Officer, who was present at the meeting of the District Food Supply Committee, who saw the Sheristedar at the Srinivaspur Railway station the next day on his way back from the meeting, and who was present at Srinivaspur on the 25th and 26th December to conduct the Taluk Conference, also gave no instructions written or verbal to the Sheristedar. The Sheristedar did receive on the 29th December a communication dated 28th idem from the Sub Division Officer (Paper 33 in File No.I) referring to the orders of the Deputy Commissioner about dispensing with the depot establishment from the end of the month and requiring the Amildar to write again direct to the Deputy Commissioner and obtain orders as to whether the establishment should be dispensed with or kept on for a further period. No reference was made in this communication to the keeping on of stocks in the depot.

The Sub Division Officer says that he thinks the Sheristedar must have been present when he told certain other persons that the rice depot was to be continued, but this is denied by the Sheristedar. Any how it is quite clear that no definite instructions written or oral were given to the Sheristedar.

5. Although the Sheristedar thus did not receive any orders not to sell off the rice, the Sub Division Officer and the Deputy Commissioner hold that his action in disposing of these large stocks in a hasty manner was not bona fid

6. In the first place it is not usual to find a Taluk Sheristedar put in charge of the current duties of the Amildar to act on his own responsibility in a matter of such importance. The Sub Division Officer was at Srinivaspur on the 25th and 26th December. It is from the 27th that stocks are hastily cleared. The Sheristedar knew that a recommendation was made by the Sub Division Officer and Amildar to sell off some rice to certain Madanapalle merchants, but he did not ask the Sub Division Officer how the matter had been disposed of in the Food Supply Committee Meeting. (The Sheristedar's explanation is that he had heard from somebody that it was decided not to give the rice to Madanapalle merchants - If this is true, it is probable that he would have also heard of the decision to continue the depot). It looks as if the Sheristedar purposely avoided taking the instructions of the Sub Division Officer in the matter when he was there. From the "loud protests" which the people subsequently made to the Deputy Commissioner and the Sub Division Officer it is clear that these hasty sales were not effected without causing much dissatisfaction among the people of the place, and there was every reason for the Sheristedar , even after the Sub Division Officer left the taluk to ask for and obtain definite instructions of the Sub Division Officer or the Deputy Commissioner in the matter. Srinivaspur is not two hours distant from Chintam and Kolar and unless the Sheristedar wished to avoid obtaining orders he should naturally have sought for orders. Even the order of the Sub

Sub Division Officer to obtain the Deputy Commissioner's instructions about the continuance of the depot establishment, which he got on the 29th when there were yet 300 pallas in stock, did not make him pause in his headlong course. He should have seen that if all stocks were disposed of there could be no question of keeping on the establishment. He kept the order by till he had disposed of all the rice, and then on the 31st evening wrote to the Deputy Commissioner that there were 13.20 pallas of damaged rice and some empty gunny bags remaining in the depot and asked for orders for the continuance of the depot establishment to deal with the accounts.

7. The Sheristedar justifies his action by referring to the orders to close the depots by the end of December. But the Deputy Commissioner in his official memorandum No.F.C.108 dated 15th December 1919 while requiring early disposal of stocks had insisted on a report of the action proposed to be taken within 3 days. This paper was before the Sheristedar and his omission to make a report before ~~before~~ starting to sell off the stocks, or at least when he began to do so is remarkable. Moreover the Amildar had written to the Deputy Commissioner on the 7th December expressing his desire to keep some stocks and to continue sales for 4 or 5 months more. The Amildar thinks that the "Sheristedar must have been cognisant of this communication", and he (the Sheristedar) seems to have admitted this before the Deputy Commissioner in the beginning (vide last sentence of para 5 of Deputy

Deputy Commissioner's No.C.495 dated 11th January 1920), though naturally the Sheristedar has gone back on this in his written explanation.

8. The bulk of the rice was disposed of wholesale. Only a small quantity was sold in retail. The Deputy Commissioner's enquiry elicited the fact that these wholesale disposals were made without any attempt at publicity, and many people who asked for small quantities were refused or put off.

9. Before the rice began to be disposed of the Sheristedar started taking the signature of the merchants to a mutchalika binding them to sell the rice at 5½ seers a rupee; but he did not complete this and when even those who had signed sold the rice at a considerably higher price he made no attempt to enforce its terms, and even omitted to mention its existence to the Deputy Commissioner. His explanation is that the merchants made some takrar about giving such a mutchalika. This, if true, would have given him another opportunity - if he was so minded - of referring the question of the disposal of the stocks for the orders of the Deputy Commissioner or the Sub Division Officer. Having remard to the above circumstances, I am inclined to the opinion that the Sheristedar's action was not bona fide, and in all probability actuated by corrupt motives.

10. The Deputy Commissioner strongly animadverts on the Sub Division Officer's failure to give instructions to the Sheristedar in pursuance of the resolution of the Food Supply Committee. By referring also to certain other cases of what he

he considers to be neglect, and laxity in the matter of foodsupply and food control work, he suggests that the Sub Division Officer's failure to give proper instructions in this case is only an instance of a general attitude of irresponsibility and want of co-operation. That he gave no instructions in this matter to the Sheristedar ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~ is admitted. Even if the Sheristedar did not ask him it was undoubtedly his duty to have given him instructions. It is not a case of forgetfulness, or of there being no occasion to think of the matter. The Sub Division Officer says in his letter No. 498 of the 17th February 1920 (Paper No.1 in File No. I) that before the Conference began on the 25th December "when I was going with other members that had assembled from the A. V. School to the Amildar's house . . . . . the very first person that spoke to me was Mr. Syed Meeran Hussein. He said about the hardship that will be caused by the intended closure of the Sirkar depot from 1st January, to which I replied atonce that he need have no fear and that the retail sales were intended to be continued". He says in this connection "I remember that the Taluk Sheristedar was also accompanying us". . . "Mr. Syed Meeran assures me that the Taluk Sheristedar was present then" He could have easily called to the Sheristedar and told him that the depot was to be continued. But admittedly this was not done.

11. The subject was also mooted subsequently on the same day at the Conference. The Sub Division Officer says that he gave the reply that it was

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was intended to continue the depot for some time longer, but there are a number of people saying that the Sub Division Officer made no reply to the representation. The Sub Division Officer's attempt to collect evidence to show that he did give the above reply has not been successful. (Vide para 23 of the Deputy Commissioner's letter under disposal). The Sub Division Officer says that this alleged misrepresentation of his action is due to the machinations of the Sub Assistant Surgeon who he had "put down" at the Conference, but this is hardly convincing. He has also taken a written statement of the Police Inspector to support him. I fear the Sub Division Officer could not have given a definite and unmistakeable reply as now alleged by him, for if he had done so, when the Sheristedar started selling off the stocksthe people who were presented at the Conference - (the Sheristedar says he was absent from his seat when this subject came up) - would surely have told him so; and if he even were then persisted in his course, they would have brought the matter to the notice of the Sub Division Officer. Secondly, if he had given such a definite reply, one would expect him to refer to it in his order of the 28th December directing the taluk office to obtain the orders of the Deputy Commissioner inthe matter of continuing the depot establishment. Thirdly, even in his order issued on learning that the Sheristedar had disposed of the stocks (No.736 dated 2nd January 1920 - Paper No.4 in File No.I) hemerely says "I remember to have said during my last visit

visit that retail sales were probably to be continued." There is nothing said here of having given the definite reply, now alleged by him, to the representation made at the Conference. There has been either an unaccountable lapse on the part of the Sub Division Officer, or there was a feeling of irresponsibility and want of co-operation with the Deputy Commissioner. Possibly his idea was that it was the Deputy Commissioner's duty, and not his, to issue definite orders in pursuance of the resolution of the Food Supply Committee.

12. As regards the Amildar, no blame attaches to him in regard to these hurried sales, as he was absent on leave. But he failed to reply to the Deputy Commissioner's strict and urgent orders to report the action proposed to be taken about the disposal of the stocks. The Deputy Commissioner also refers to a number of irregularities on the part of the Amildar, the chief among which appears to be his inexplicable conduct in keeping on a particular official to do the duties of Food Clerk, in spite of the Deputy Commissioner's peremptory orders to remove him. His management of food supply work in the taluk has been, I am compelled to say, very unsatisfactory. The report of the first audit of his accounts revealed very grave irregularities. Even at the time of the second audit, many of the defects had not been remedied. Credit sales

R. S. III-2.

General and Revenue Secretariat. | 16 File No. 6 of 1919

Serial

sales having been allowed, and the names of parties not being known, the Amildar had himself to pay a sum of Rs.106-10-5. The former report showed that against 150.38¼ pallas of rice measured and sent to the Taluk from Bowringpet, the Srinivaspur Depot had debited itself only with 146.49 pallas. Even for later consignments sent direct from Madras the Srinivaspur depot shows the average contents of the bags as about 5 seers less than the averages obtained for the same consignments in other taluks. It is impossible to believe that there was such heavy shortage in the consignments ~~gone~~ sent to this particular depot. (The papers about this will be submitted as soon as the Amildar's explanation, which was called for ~~from~~ by the Deputy Commissioner some time ago, is received). His clining to a particular clerk in such circumstances could be construed as a suspiciouscircumstance - but my impression is that the irregularities are due to the Amildar's helplessness and incapacity.

Bangalore, 26-9-1920.

Food Controller & Director of Civil Supplies in Mysore.

CHIEF SECRETARY II POLITICAL BRANCH 28 SEP. 1920

Sn Cd
Mg
28/9/20
Chief Sec'y

MK
28/9

The file may now be sent up to the Rev Comm for favour

NOTE—Contn. sheet.

G. R. S. III-21

General and Revenue Secretariat. | 86 File No. of 1919

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of his remarks & suggestions if any as the notice that may be taken of the conduct of the officers concerned whose action has been adversely animadverted upon. The D.C. may be requested to treat the matter as very urgent.

4/10/20

Forwarded with compliments to the Revenue Commissioner in regard to favour of remarks and suggestions. The matter may kindly be treated as very urgent.

By order

M Rasamsher

4.10.20.

for Chief Secretary to Govt

I am directed to acknowledge the opinion expressed by Mr Nathan in his letter & Enclosure noted in the margin of 26th September.

2. I quite agree with Mr Nathan that the conduct of the Sheristadar in the affair is not free from suspicion. The Dep. Com. having in his own

Rec. No 66 4.10.20

Rec'd 3 Mar 4/10/20

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. | 18 File No. 6 of 1919

Serial No.

dated 15th Dec 19 directed an early disposal of the stock and called for a report within 3 days of the action proposed to be taken by Tasker (who was in charge of the Tn. at the time) Stoner have submitted a report immediately on the matter & obtained definite orders about the sale of the large stock on hand and taking it in hand etc. disposed of it in the manner he did. The shortcomings are brought out in the circumstances, further open to question. At any rate, there can be no doubt whatever that the latter if acted with circumspection & discretion & with a due sense of responsibility. I would suggest that the only adverse remarks from the Sheristadar & transfer to a less responsible appointment on a reduced pay for a period of one year.

3. With regard to the amedar (Mr R. Ramudeigan) he had no hand in the disposal of the stock in question, & does not (in fact) come in for any blame in respect of it. His

general administration of the Taluk

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. | PB File No. 6 of 1949

Serial No.

has been, however, unsatisfactory — not only in respect of the handling of the food supply question but in the other work as well in the New Dept. Mr Aravamudachar is quite well meaning & honest; but as observed by Mr Tatlow he has not the capacity to control his subordinates & take proper work from them. He is in fact unsuited for the Comptroller appointment. The first have already at my suggestion, moved his removal from the Comptroller & reversion to his permanent appointment in the Revenue line; and no further action is therefore called for in respect of him.

4. Coming now to the Subdivisional officers (Mr Crawford excepted) the Diwan has stated that he does not concern himself much in the food supply arrangements & the working of the food depots, leaving the Comptroller to manage it under instructions from the Dep^y Com^r. [illegible]

[illegible] regards the Dep^y Com^r's animadversions on the conduct in respect of his

G. R. S. III-2)

General and Revenue Secretariat.

PB File No. 6 of 1919

Serial No.

failure to give undertaking to the Tahsildar in pursuance of the resolution of the Food Supplies Committee dated 20th Dec. 19. I think, the Dy. Collector should promptly send a copy of the proceedings of the Committee to the Taluka concerned.

The Collector should have expected the Subordinate officer to give undertaking to the Taluka in accordance with the resolution of the Committee before they themselves sent a copy of the proceedings, as they would have been taken a serious responsibility on themselves if they had made any mistake in their interpretation of the proceedings. As borne by the Taluka in his opening sentence of para 4 of his note, if the Dy. Collector had promptly communicated the decision of the Committee to the Talukas the non-grain-eaters in question would have secured. In the circumstances, I cannot blame the ADC for his failure to give undertaking to the Tahsildar & Surveyor in pursuance of the resolution of the

commission. At the same time it was his duty to have enquired into the decision of the Commission when he went to Samarang & remained there on Jan 25th & 26th Dec when the disposal of the Stock in the Depot stores have been brought to notice. & he ~~should~~ was to blame in not giving proper instructions to the Storekeeper as soon as this stage & in leaving it to him to obtain his instructions in the matter from the Dep^{ty} Controller. The Sub Division officer may be reprimanded for this failure in not performing his ~~duty~~ responsible duty in the forwarding arrangements & exercising proper supervision over the working of the depots.

In this connection I may say that the transfer of this sub division officer from the Kedu District is desirable & I have ~~already~~ submitted my proposals in this respect in another connection.

Spl 364 A/11/20
2021

Bangalore
3/11/20

Re

To The Chief Secretary to Govt. with Compliments

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat. | P.P. File No. 6 of 1919.

Serial No.

For order.

MK 5/11/20

Chief Secr)

Please put up a draft showing the F.S & R.'s observations.

Remarks to be taken. Rs recommendation maybe embodied in the draft for consideration.

CBM. 10/11 Bris in M 14/11

Draft submitted MK 15/11/20

MK 15/11

Chief Secr) In approval

Dewan)

CBM 16/11/20

Draft approved by the Dewan.

20.11.20.

Secy

MK 22/11/20

To

The Rev. Comr.
The Food Controller
The Deputy Comr, Kolar
The Comptroller
The Secy to Govt. Rev. Deptt.

No. G 10093-8 dy. 23rd Nov. 1920

25

G. R. S. III-2]

General and Revenue Secretariat.

File No. 6 of 1919.

Serial No.

Govt take notice with certain observation of the Conduct of the officials responsible for the irregularities in the disposal of stock rice at Srirangapur depot Viz Mr Chakrapani Iyengar, Sub-Dy Officer, Chinnaswamy Dy and Mr Aravamuth Iyengar, Amildar, and Mr K.S. Rama Rao, Sheristedar.

B

CHIEF SECRETARIAT.
POLITICAL BRANCH.
23 NOV. 1920

DIARY NO. 12010 26

19 -19

Office of the Deputy Commisssioner
Kolar District.

No.C. 496 / one

Dated Kolar the 9th January 1920.

LR 287-19-1

From

Md. Zahiruddin Mecci , Esquire, B. A.,
Deputy Commisssioner, Kolar District.

To

C. S. Balasundaram Iyer, Esquire, B. A.,
Chief Secretary to the Government of His
Highness the Maharaja of Mysore, Bangalore

S i r,

I have the honour to enclose for your kind perusal a copy of my Official Memorandum No. C. 495 dated the 9th/11th January 1920 regarding the irregularities noticed in the Srinivaspur Taluk Office in the matter of the exhaustion of the stock of rice by the Sheristadar. I am awaiting ~~the~~ the final report of the Sub Division Officer and shall further communicate to you.

I have the honour to be,
S i r,
Your most obedient servant,

DEPUTY COMMISSSIONER,
Kolar District.

S. G. P.

Office of the Deputy Commissioner,

Kolar District,

Dated, Kolar, the 8th/9th January 1920.

OFFICIAL MEMORANDUM.

1. As already referred to in my Special Report on the Food Situation in the Kolar District for the Week ending the 3rd instant, the Sub Division Officer, Chintamani Sub-Division, represented in the District standing Food Committee Meeting held on the 20th ultimo, the wants and situation in the Srinivaspur Taluk as the Amildar was absent on leave. It was decided and agreed to by the Sub Division Officer that Srinivaspur should retain about 200 Bags of Rice for sale in the local Depot during the next two months and the balance of about 1,300 bags should be given to Mulbagal as that Depot had exhausted its stock and the demand was great. The recommendation of the Amildar supported by the Sub Division Officer that two Madanapalli merchants might be given 700 bags out of the stock, was discussed in the said Meeting and it was decided that such sale should not be permitted as I wanted the whole quantity for local consumption. These merchants who had come to Kolar to represent their case personally were told in the presence of the Sub Division Officer that they would not be given any rice. The Sub Division Officer left Kolar on the 21st ultimo and was at Srinivaspur on the 25th and 26th December 1919 in connection with the Taluk Conference.

2. But in reply to this Office circular reference No. C.F. 56 dated 31st December 1919 to the Taluk Officers asking to defer sales wholesale to merchants and to await further orders, the Sheristedar of Srinivaspur who was in charge of the Taluk during the absence of the Amildar on

on leave reported in his F.C.No. 117 dated the 1st instant that he had exhausted his stock the previous day alone! This information was received on the 3rd afternoon, and as at the same time a petition had been received making allegations against the Sheristedar, the present food Clerk, Subba Rao and the old Food Clerk Raghaviah, that they had made lots of money by disposing off the stocks to merchants, I at once proceeded to the spot to know why the Sheristedar had so hastily disposed of no less than one thousand bags of rice, which had been supplied to this Taluk with the greatest difficulty, as it had suffered much on account of failure of timely rains.

3. There was a large number of people collected at the Taluk Office, and they were loud in their complaints about the exhaustion of stock in the Depot, and openly accused the Sheristedar, the present and the old Food Clerks Subba Rao and Raghaviah with having made 12 annas to one rupee on every bag sold to the merchants. Nanjundiah, a ryot, Theli Subbanna, Thavakal Mastan, Muhamad Ansir, Hanumanthu and a lot of others complained that the merchants were selling rice at 4½ seers per rupee, though they had purchased it at 5¼ seers from Government. Almost all the merchants who had so purchased the stocks were present, but every one pleaded he had sold off his stocks and had only a few bags for his own consumption, and Muhamad Ansir and Hanuamnthu further said that merchant Chabu Sab when remonstrated for the high prices he was charging pleaded that he had himself purchased at the rate of Rs. 18/- per bag of 80 seers and was therefore selling the rice at 4½ seers per rupee.

4. The Sheristedar said that he did not receive any instructions from the Sub Division Officer, nor did he seek any

any from him. He admitted however that he met the Sub Division Officer on the 21st ultimo at the Srinivaspur Railway Station, as he was returning from Kolar to Chintamani, and that Officer was at Srinivaspur on the 25th and 26th ultimo for the Taluk Conference. It is very strange if, as alleged, the Sub Division Officer did not give instructions to the Sheristedar about the stocks of rice in the Depot, especially after the definite understanding come to in the meeting held on the 20th ultimo.

5. It was ascertained that several representations were made during the Taluk Conference, that the Depot transactions should not be closed and that the sales of rice should be continued as heretofore. Mr. Syed Miran Hussain said that he spoke to the Sheristedar just before the commencement of the Conference, against the sale of stocks to the merchants and as desired by the Sheristedar, he raised the question in the Taluk Conference also. Mr. Venkatramana Bhat, Municipal Councillor, the Sub Assistant Surgeon and others stated that they supported this representation in the Conference, and pressed the question of the continuance of the sales by the Government Agency for two or three months more as the Tanks in the Taluk had not received the usual supply and the crops were far from encouraging.

The Sheristedar at first was positive that no such question was raised in the Taluk Conference. But when confronted with such a large number of respectable citizens, he changed and wanted to make me believe that while the discussions were going on, he was moving from the Conference Hall to the Exhibition Room and Vice Versa, with a view to supply records and references to the Sub Division Officer, and hence was not in a position to take note of these representations and did not even become aware of them! This explanation of

of the Sheristedar is curious, and I find it impossible to attach any value whatsoever to it. In fact from what Mr.Ramasamy Chetty another Municipal Councillor and several others stated, wholesale disposals by bags to merchants having commenced by about the end of November 1919, there has all along been a feeling among the people against such a procedure, and constant representations had been made to the Amildar and Sub Division Officer. The Sheristedar also admitted knowledge of the fact, that the Amildar had made recommendations for the continuance of the Depot for some months.

6. Looking into the accounts I found as already stated above that wholesale disposals to merchants commenced from 26th November 1919, on which date one bag of 80 seers was issued to Gangayya a local merchant. It is significant that the sales to this man continued in an unbroken chain as if it were, till the end, amounting in all to 29 and odd bags, which works out at the rate of almost a bag per day ! The wholesale disposals to merchants continued up to 19th December when the Amildar went on leave. Under what authority the Amildar acted like this requires explanation, From the 20th ultimo the Sheristedar entered on the duties of the Amildar, an the sales to merchants increased gradually from that date and a major portion of the stock was sold off after the 26th ultimo, that is, after the Sub Division Officer left the Taluk. In fact no less than one thousand and ninety three pallas and odd were sold off between the 29th and 30th ultimo ! It was only on the 31st ultimo, when the whole stock had thus been exhausted, that some semblance of an attempt was made to sell to the ordinary consumers! There were loud and bitter complaints from persons in all condition of life that when they asked for rice they were told there were no sufficient stocks and that there were several hundreds to be satisfied, but that

that all the while hundreds of bags were being disposed of to individual merchants without any restriction whatsoever ! It was also openly complained that some of the names in the register which were shown as having been given one bag each were not bonafide, but benami for others !

A glance through the register showed that the Sheristedar has issued no less than 182 bags to the Kagathi Shop in the names of three different persons (Vysyas) all brothers in the same concern, 150 bags to another merchant Seetharamiah (Vysya), 162 bags to another Krishniah also a Vysya ! It is also remarkable that 13 bags were given for cost to the Royalpad Ookad Clerk for retail sales to the public ! The effect of such transactions on his conduct in preventing exports of Food Grains can better be imagined than described !

7. The Sheristedar appears to rely for his action on the following references:--

(1) F.C. No. 108 dated 24-11-1919

(2) F.C. No. 108 dated 5-12-1919

(3) H.C. No. 315 dated 10-12-1919.

The first order simply forwards the Food Controller's reference A 3006-15-F. 87-26-36 dated 21st November 1919 for needful action in respect of the disposal of the stock and report. The Food Controller has not authorised sale to merchants but has only called for proposals. No report has been received from the Amildar in this matter. The second order is a circular issued from this Office in which definite proposals were called for. No reply has been received even to this. The third order is the Government Order which approves the resolutions of the Central Food Committee in the matter of the disposal of rice and ragi to merchants and co-operative Societies. But it has to be observed that no reference has till now been made to me in respect of the first two orders. The resolutions of the Central Food Committee contemplate a wide publication both in the Town and Rural Areas about the closure

closure of the Depot from the 1st instant so that needy people who could afford might purchase the supply required by them. In fact in accordance with my circular instructions by which sales to the rural population had been arranged through the Village Improvement Committees, it was the duty of the Amildar and the Sheristedar (while in charge), if they wanted to dispose of the stocks, to have duly notified the fact to all Village Improvement Committees and awaited their reports till the end of the month. Far from this, absolutely no action had been taken in the matter and even the Townspeople had been kept utterly in the dark as to the intentions of the Taluk Officers in this matter ! ! The Sheristedar admitted he had not notified the fact of intended wholesale disposals to the townspeople.

8. In my Official Memorandum No, C.F. 28 sent to the Amildar from Mysore Camp on the 10th October 1919 certain irregularities in his Depot were pointed to the Amildar and his expalnation was called for. He was further asked whether the then Food Clerk Raghaviah had been removed as per personal orders given to him on 23rd September last. As the Amildar delayed in submitting his report a wire was sent to him on 20-10-1919 in the matter. He reported in his No, C. 52 dated the 29th October 1919 that he had removed Raghviah from Depot charge and that he would submit a detailed reply to my C.F. 28 within three days. The promised report has not yet been received. I find that in the several registers pertaining to the Food Operations, the very same Raghaviah against whom several complaints had been made and who had been removed from this work under such circumstances has been allowed to meddle in the food transactions and has made entries as detailed below

Day Book.	Cash Book.
20-10-1919.	25-10-1919.
23-10-1919.	27-10-1919.

Day Book.(contd)	Cash Book.(contd)	Stock Account.
24-10-1919.	31-10-1919.	3-11-1919.
25-10-1919.	4-11-1919.	13-11-1919.
16-11-1919.	3-12-1919.	27-10-1919.
24-11-1919. to the end of the month.	14-12-1919.	28-10-1919.
3 to 15-12-1919.	16-12-1919.	27-12-1919 to 31-12-1919.
20-12-1919.	17-12-1919.	
30-12-1919.	18-12-1919.	
31-12-1919.	21 to 25-12-1919. 27 to 31-12-1919.	

Further it is found that the Amildar has passed a Memo dated 14th November 1919 to the effect that " in connection with the sale of Burma Rice H. Subbarao will be given the help of the former Depot clerk Raghviah "..! ! The Amildar has thus flagrantly disobeyed clear and repeated ordefs given to him regarding this undesirable clerk.

9. The Sub Division Officer has not yet submitted any report in the matter. The Sub Division Officer will be requested to submit the expalnation of the Amildar and the Sheristedar on all these points within a week, as also the failure to take any action after what had transpired in the Officers's Meeting at Kolar on 20th December 1919 and in the Taluk Conference on the 25th and 26th idem.

Sd. Md. Zahiruddin Mecci',
Deputy Commissioner,
Kolar District.

Kolar
9-1-1920.

" C O P Y "

Deputy Commissioner,
Kolar District.

G. R. S. VI—G/32]

SUBJECT...

Diary No. of letter replied to..... .....

Section LR

File No. 287-19

Serial No. 2

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

( )

the *191* .

No. R 8012 dt 20.1.20.

Date of issue 20.1.20 .

Signed by M G Bhelkikar

To

The Dy. Commr.
Kolar
~~Bangalore~~ Distt

Sir,

With reference to your letter
No: C 496 dt the 9/11th January 192
regarding the irregularities noticed in
the Srinivaspur Taluk office in the
matter of the exhaustion of the Stock
in the local depot,
I am directed to request you to state the
pending the submission of your final rep

over.

request you to place
the Dy Shr. immediately
under suspension

35

d order of Govt — that there may ~~be~~
ink Shakespeare ~~not~~ be replaced
der Suspension and report for the information of Govt —
date of his relief. I have &c

GMA

Sec Rev: Secy

20.1.20

Memo R8013.

Copy forwarded to the Rev:
ment for information. ~~with the~~
duation that in view of the
gency of the Step taken, orders ha
en issued direct to the Dy Com

By order

GMA

Sr Rev: Secy

List of enclosures.

Corrd by

Examined by

Confidential.

DIARY NO. 1378

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARIAT
POLITICAL CLERK
9 FEB 1920

D.O. 75. Office of the Food Controller and Director of Civil Supplies in Mysore,

Bangalore, 6th February 1920.

19-2-20
SECTION P
FILE NO 69
SERIAL NO 720

My dear Balasundaram Iyer,

The Deputy Commissioner of the Kolar District has I understand forwarded to you a copy of his official memorandum No. C.495 of the 11th January regarding the disposal of the rice stocked in the Srinivasapur Depot at the end of December 1919 in a hurry under suspicious circumstances.

The unsatisfactory ~~accounts~~ features about the case have been explained in the Deputy Commissioner's memorandum, but one point which has not come out in the Deputy Commissioner's enquiry was elicited by me. Before the rice was given away to the merchants they seem to have asked the Taluk Sheristedar at what price they ~~are~~ were to sell the rice in retail and the Sheristedar told them that the rice which would be sold to them at $5\frac{1}{4}$ seers a rupee should be sold by them at $5\frac{1}{8}$ seers. It was arranged that a mutchalika to this effect should be taken from the merchants. Signatures are said to have been obtained only from two merchants and the others seem to have made difficulties about signing it. Nevertheless partly through the negligence of the Sheristedar, partly also as he says because his subordinates persuaded him from enforcing the ~~giving~~ taking of mutchalikas the rice was given away to the merchants and when they started selling at $4\frac{5}{4}$ and $4\frac{1}{2}$ seers and less no mention was made of this original undertaking and of the mutchalika given by two people. This evidently shows that after the Sheristedar ordered that mutchalikas should be obtained some thing happened which induced him to give up the idea. This leads to very strong suspicion. I was given to understand that the Food Clerks appointed by the Amildar ~~will have~~ wield great influence. (One of them it seems has been retained

retained by the Amildar in spite of the Deputy Commissioner's orders to remove him) The general impression in the place is that these clerks must have made a considerable amount of money out of these transactions.

Another point is that although a number of people applied for two or three bags the majority of them were refused. It seems only 68 bags were sold in small lots of one or two bags and about 1200 bags were disposed of in large lots to a few merchants. It is freely talked all over here that the bulk of this was taken away to the Madanapalli taluk. Even the Circle Inspector of Madanapalli told me of this.

A further disquieting feature is that at the Taluk Conference held a couple of days before these stocks were disposed of people very vehemently (some of them even clamourously) requested that the depot should be kept up and the stock should not be disposed of, but the municipal councillors and others who met me at Srinivasapur said publicly that the Sub Division Officer who was presiding at the conference said nothing whatever with reference to this representation. ~~I hear that one of the people have no right statements before the sub division officer to the effect that he did say that the depot should not be closed and that the stocks should not be given away.~~

About this Sub Division Officer - it seems some large quantities of paddy were being transported via Rayalpad towards Madanapalli when the Sub Division Officer was camping at Rayalpad. The carts were stopped by the ookad people, but the Sub Division Officer seems to have ordered that the men may be excused and directed that the paddy should be sold locally. This is the information which I obtained on the inspection of the ookad. I am communicating all this to the Deputy Commissioner confidentially.

Yours sincerely,

Krishna

G. R. S. VI—G/32]

SUBJECT.....

Diary No. of letter replied to.....

Confd

Section OO
File No. 6-19
Serial No. 2145

GENERAL AND REVENUE SECRETARIAT

( )

the *191* .

No. G 18737 ans

Date of issue..... 14/2

Signed by.. Mr BKG

To Mr DG Cons
Kohat Dt.

Sir

In continuation of the correspondence ending with the Revenue's letter no R 8012 G 20th Jan 1920 regarding the irregularities in the disposal of stocks of rice at Srinagar, I am directed to

forward herewith

29

A copy of letter dated 6th Feb 1920 from the Food Controller on the subject to request that the explanations of the sub-Div of the Amendment besides that of the Shr under the proposed in the new Regulation may be obtained & forwarded with your remarks thereon very early.

That the matter should be dealt with promptly.

Yours etc.

MG 11/2/2

Secretary

List of enclosures.

Copied by

Examined by

1744—GPB—80,000—19-3-19

No. 2. C.117/19-20

Encl. 4.

2144

Office of the Deputy Commissioner,

Kolar District,

Dated, Kolar, 11th February 1920.

SEC. O. DEV. OFFICE
14 FEB 1920

From

14230
DIARY NO.....

The Deputy Commissioner,

Kolar District.

To

C.S.Balasundaram Iyer, Esq, B.A.,

Chief Secretary to the Government

of Mysore, Bangalore,

BANGALORE.

Sir,

With reference to your letter No.G.17194-P.P.C-19 dated the 4th instant asking me to expedite the further report regarding the irregularities in the disposal of stocks of rice at Srinivaspur, I have the honour to state that the marginally noted references, copies of which are enclosed, have been made in the matter to the Sub-Division officer, Chintamani, who was asked in my C.495 dated 11-1-20 to submit his report within a week. As soon as his reply is received, I shall submit the further report.

(1) Telegram dated 19-1-1920.
(2) ------do------- 4-2-1920.
(3) Memo No.H.C.315/5-2-1920.
(4) Telegram dated 6-2-1920.

I have the honou to be

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Incharge Deputy Commissioner,

Kolar District.

41

Telegram dated 19th January 1920 from the Deputy Commissioner Kolar District, to the Sub-division officer, Chintamani.

Please reply immediately C.495 of eleventh instant

" Copy "

S. Shamanna

Inch. Deputy Commissioner,

Kolar,
11-2-20.

Kolar District.

42

Telegram dated 4th February 1920 from the Deputy Commissioner Kolar District, to the Sub-division officer, Chintamani.

"Re delay in submission of report Srinivaspur Depot unsatisfactory matter should not have been left to the convenience of Amildar please attend personally".

" Copy "

S. S Kamanna

Inch. Deputy Commissioner.

Kolar,
11-2-20.

To Kolar District.

43

Memo no.H.C.315/Depot.dated 4,5th February 1920 from the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District, to the Sub-division officer, Chintamani.

In confirming the marginally noted telegram sent to him this day, the Sub-division officer, Chintamani, is requested to expedite the submission of the report regarding the irregularities observed in the Srinivaspur Depot.

"Re delay in submission of report Srinivaspur depot unsatisfactory matter should not have been left to the convenience of ~~the~~ Amildar please attend personally".

" copy ".

S. Shamanna
nch. Deputy Commissioner.
Kolar District

Telegram dated 6th February 1920 from the Deputy Commissioner Kolar District, to the Sub-division officer, Chintamani.

Please expedite report c.495 of eleventh ultimo. Government reminder received.

" Copy "

S. Shanmugam

Inch. Deputy Commissioner,

Kolar,
11-2-20

Kolar District.

DIARY NO. 3574 45

Confidential.

No. C.779 (Encs. 7 files.)

Office of the Deputy Commissioner,
Kolar District;
Dated Camp Oorgaum, the 4th July, 1920.

From

Md. Zahiruddin Mecci, Esquire, B.A.,
Deputy Commissioner;
Kolar District.

To

C.S. Balasundaram Iyer, Esquire, B.A.,
Chief Secretary to the Government
of Mysore, Bangalore.

S i r,

With reference to correspondence ending --- with your letter No.G. 21509--P.P. dated the 18th March 1920, regarding the irregularities in the disposal of ---- stocks of rice at Srinivasapur, I have the honour to for--ward herewith in original with Index 44 for the information of Govern--ment the entire records and correspondence ending with Sub-Division Officer's letter No. H.C. 500 dated the 29th May 1920:---

2. In this case the following are the points for consideration:--

The conduct of the Sheristedar in disposing of in hot haste the whole stock of rice in the De--pot without seeking instructions.

) The action of the Amildar in allowing sales to merchants without orders and contrary to circu--lar orders and instructions given from time to time and directing clerk Raghaviah to attend to

the Depot work in clear violation of repeated orders

(iii) The action taken by the Sub-Division Officer after attending the Officers' Meeting held at Kolar on -- the 20th December 1919.

The observations of the Food Controller contained in his letter of the 6th February 1920.

Mr.R.Aravamuthu Iyengar, Amildar of Srinivasapur Taluk, was on leave from the 19th December 1919 to the 2nd Janu--ary 1920, and Mr.K.S.Rama Rao, the Sheristedar, was in charge of the Taluk during that period. In my Official Memorandum No.C.495 of the 11th January 1920, I have ex--plained the unsatisfactory features regarding the dis--posal of the rice stocked in the Srinivasapur Depot, at the end of December 1919, in a hurry under highly suspi--cious circumstances. From the enclosed Day Book, which contains the transactions in the Depot from 23.10.19, it will be seen that from 20.12.19 up to the end of the --- month, the quantity of rice sold in retail is 40 pallas, while that by wholesale is 1300 pallas. On the 27th, 28th, 29th and 30th December 1919, alone, the wholesale disposal came up to 1162 pallas, while the retail sale amounted to only 16 pallas! The explanation of the ---- Sheristedar dated 16.2.20, regarding this abnormal dis--posal of rice by wholesale to merchants, from the 20th to 30th December, does not touch the point at all. He seems to be quibbling on words, and to be labouring to show, that there was no uniform increase in the sales, but that there were fluctuations in the quantity dis--posed of each day from the 20th onwards.

A perusal of the Day Book shows, that the Taluk authorities

ave issued the rice at different rates on one and the same ay, example, on 11th November, of the three merchants o whom rice was issued wholesale, one was charged 5$\frac{1}{8}$ seers upee while the two others were charged 5$\frac{1}{4}$ seers a ru-

Again on 12th November, while the wholesale rate is to be 5$\frac{1}{8}$ seers per rupee, the retail sale has been at rs a rupee ! ! This matter will be dealt with separate-

I may add here however, that all the transactions in ay Book, including the above, have been initialled by the stedar.

. As regards the complaint of the ordinary consumers, hen they asked for one or two bags for bona-fide con- tion , they were told there was no sufficient stock, here was a large number of other people to be satis- -fied, while all the time the Sheristedar was disposing of hundreds of bags to merchants, it is to be observed, that also the Sheristedar tries to make out, that my obser- ons referred to transactions of the 31st. idem only, as a matter of fact, they refer to transactions from late he assumed charge of the Taluk till the end of the

But even here it is remarkable , that though the ba- -lance according to the Day Book on the 31st. idem was only 87 bags, the Sheristedar admits, that the rice he had dis- -posed of to the merchants the previous day, actually re- -mained in the Depot on the 31st. idem, when only they were removed . This quantity according to the Day Book was 185 and odd pallas ! ! It is clear that it was not at all diffi- -cult, for the unscrupulous clerks in charge of the Food --- operations, by a slight manipulation to show, that transaction that actually took place on the 31st. idem, as having taken

place on the 30th. I may add here that the Food Controller and Director of Civil Supplies, who made independent enquiries, has come to the same conclusion , and observes in his letter dated the 6th December 1920 as follows:---

"Another point is that although a number of people applied for 2 or 3 bags , a majority of them were refused."

Not only were private individuals refused such requests, the Sheristedar had the audacity to decline to issue ric to the Mul--bagal Co-operative Society , as per requisition of the Vice--President of Municipality, and to Mr.G.Ramappa for the use of Gownapalli rural area. While the Sheristedar has denied all knowledge in the first case, he is reported to have offered no explanation regarding the second. The fact that Mr.Krishna--murthiachar had actually sent a man to Srinivasapur Taluk Of--fice for the rice, is spoken to by a clerk of the Srinivasa--pur Taluk Office itself. The Sheristedar did not apparently consider it to his interest to issue rice on behalf of these public bodies.

The explanation dated the 16th February 1920 of the Sheristedar, regarding the benami nature of the transactions is similarly not convincing, nor the explanation given for the sale of a large number of bags, to one and the same shop, in the names of three different persons who are brothers. It tanta--mounts to admitting that he was entirely in the hands of the Depot clerks.

In para 7 of my Official Memorandum No.C.495 dated the 11th January 1920, I have remarked upon the authorities relied on by the Sheristedar for his action. He writes at length on this subject in pages 4 and 5 of his explanation dated the 31st January 1920 and pages 7 and 8 of his explanation dated the --- 16th February 1920.

The 1st. order on which he relies is the Food Controller's letter of the 21st. November 1919, which states that if there should be no objection, excess stocks might be given over to merchants at cost price. The 2nd. order is my circular memo dated the 5th December 1919, where while speedy disposal of excess stocks is advised, a detailed report has been required to be submitted "within 3 days" as to the action proposed to be taken. I have added further that the Amildars will be held personally res-ponsible for not making prompt reports and obtaining orders.

The 3rd. order relied upon by the Sheristedar is the Govern-ment order dated 2nd idem, approving of the resclutions of the Central Food Committee, which are to the effect that the closure of the Depots from 1st. January 1920 should be notified to the public, and that stocks should be disposed of early to Co-operat-ive Societies and merchants. The next authority relied upon by the Sheristedar is, the Notification dated 3rd idem by the Food Controller in the Government Gazette, in pursuance of the above Government Order regarding the closure of the Depots from 1st. Janaury 1920.

8. The Sheristedar explains that he called for the Food pa-pers o evening of the 27th December, till which date he as eng d with the Talux Conference work, and finding that the Ami had simply referred these orders to the Food clerk, without instructions whatsoever, and had given the Sheriste-dar no instructions when going on leave, the latter set about giving effect to the orders for the prompt disposal of the rice so as to avoid loss to Government. He offers no explanation however as to why he failed to submit report " as to the action he proposed to take and obtain orders thereon," as expressly required by the body of these very orders which he quotes as his authorities for his action. However urgent the matter have might have been it could well have waited for 6 or 12 hours,

which was all the time he could have require to get instruc-
ons of the Sub-Division Officer from Chin mani or the ---
-ersigned from Kolar, by a special messeng , if need be..
Again what prevented him from taking deposits from the mer-
-chants, and reporting the same for orders, is not clear. He
also admittely failed to give wide pbulicity as required in
my memo No. 315 dated the 13th August 1919 and Memo No. D.C. 315
dated 16.9.19 circulating the Proceedings of the Kolar Hooli
Conference, according to which the rice required for the ticket
-holders for a full month in each Taluk had to be ear-marked,
and the supplies to the rural population had to be through the
the agency of Village Improvement Committees. Thus before the
Sheristedar could take any action in the matter of the disposa
of the rice , he was und to communicate with the several lo-
-cal and rural organisations, as to their willingness or other
-wise to purchase their share of the stock on hand. The plea
now raised by him that the Amildar in his executive capacity,
had been telling people about the intended closure of the ---
Depot, must be rejected as an after-thought, in as much as the
enquiry has shown, that even the townspeople had been kept ---
entirely in the dark regarding the wholesale disposal to mer-
-chants.

9. Knowing that the Amildar went away on leave on the 19th
it was the Sheristedar's duty to have come to Kolar to attend
the Hood Meeting as per orders. Having failed to do so, his
next duty was to have sought information and instructions from
the Sub- Division Officer, whom he met in the train on the 21st.
on his way back from Kolar. He has offered no explanation for
this omission.

The Sheristedar admits that he got information from some
clerk , about the refusal of the undersigned, to allow any sale

to the Madanapalli merchants. It stands to reason, therefore, to presume that he must have got information also about the decision of the meeting at Kolar about the other matter, viz., to continue the retail sales in the depots. The Sheristedar knew that food work was an important one and there was no reason for him to foreget the matter entirely.

10. I quite agree with the Sub-Division Officer, that the facts within the knowledge of the Sheristedar were such, that any man of ordinary common sense in his position , would have felt the necessity of seeking instructions before taking the responsibility of wholesale disposal to merchants. This conduct of the Sheristedar is inexplicable. It is unnecessary for me to go into the further details of the arguments of the Sub-Division Officer. I fully endorse his views in the matter

11. Regarding the Mutchalika affair, referred to by the Food Controller and Director of Civil Supplies, the explanation of the Sheristedar, for his failure to bring it to my notice at the time of the enquiry at Srinivasapur is, that the question never cropped up, and therefore he had no occasion to inform the Deputy Commissioner about it. A reference however to para 3 of my official memorandum will show, that the Sheristedar had ample opportunities of bringing the matter to my notice. When the people complained, that the merchants who purchased at 5½ seers per rupee from the Government Depot, were selling the rice at 4½ seers per rupee, the Sheristedar could have at once said that the merchants were bound by Mutcha-lika to sell at 5½ seers per rupee. The Sheristedar appeared to be absolutely help-less and lifeless, and when asked to get back some bags from each merchant at the price at which they had been sold, he could get not a single bag as suggested. He was absolutely of no help to us, in our efforts to secure some bags for the use of the public, and it was ---

after a good deal of exertion and waste of l , that we managed to get 112 bags from the merchants f le from the next day. The very mention of the Mutchalika would have enor-mously strenghtnened our hands, and we could have compelled the merchants to come to reasonable terms. It is difficult to say if his omission to bring it to my notice was bonafide.

A further question about the Mutchalika is, that while the Sheristedar, started this idea of taking a Mutchalika from the merchants to the effect, that they would sell at 5⅛ seers per rupee, having purchased it at 5½, and took the signatures of 4 or 5 of them, the idea was somehow dropped, and no fur-ther action was taken in the matter. His explanation that the Food clerk who had been entrusted with the work, informed him, that the merchants were making takarars to sign the Mut-chalika, that he wanted to send for them and speak to them, but this he forgot to do so in the pressure of disposing of the stocks, is absolutely untenable, and has a very ugly ap-pearance about it.

12. It will be seen from para 3 of my official memorandum, that during the enquiry, there was a large number of people col-lected at the Taluk Office, and they were loud in their com-plaints about the exhaustion of stocks in the Depot, and openly accused the Sheristedar, the present and the old food clerks Subba Rao and Raghaviah, with having made 12 annas to one rupee on every bag sold to the merchants. The Food Con-troller in his letter of the 6th February 1920, also says that the general impression in the place during his visit was to the same effect.

13. Such a wholesale disposal in such hot haste, has not been taken place in any other Taluk of the District. Gudibanda had a large stock, and the Deputy Amildar did not similarly at-

attend the meeting at Kolar on the 20th December 1919. But still there was no sale to merchants in that Depot. In fact identical orders had been issued to all the Taluks, and --- Srinivasapur has been the only Taluk where matters have gone wrong as above.

14. In the aforesaid circumstances, I fully agree with the Sub-Division Officer in his conclusion, that the con--duct of the Sheristedar is open to grave suspicion, that his action is not bona-fide , that it is extremely diffi--cult to say if it was a mere error of judgment as alleged by him, and that it seems as if he was deliberately avoid--ing to seek instructions, with a view to sell away the stock to merchants from different places, under their irresistible pressure , as the Sub-Division Officer calls it.

15. Next coming to the action of the Amildar:-- the points he has to answer are:--1stly. He commenced sales to merchants without authority or orders, the first such sale commencing from the 26th November 1919 to one Gangia. It is significant that sales to this merchant continued in almost an unbroken chain till the end which works out at the rate of almost one bag per day.

2ndly. He failed to submit any report of the action proposed to be taken as required in the orders issued to him. He was content with merely referring these orders to the Food clerk.

3rdly. His disobedience of orders which were peremp--tory to remove Food clerk Raghaviah forthwith from the Depot work.

4thly. His entrusting the sale of rice to the Ronalpad Ookad clerk .

As regards the 1st. point, he says that he did not --- personally know Gangia, but that the Food clerk (Raghaviah),

under his general instructions, to give rice to merchants in small quantities for retail sale, sold rice to Gangia as observed above, and adds that this was done under the general sanction accorded ~~in the following orders~~:—

:--(1) H.C.315 dated 10.11.1919.

(2) F.C.108 dated 24.11.1919.

(3) F.C.108 dated 5.12.1919..

(4) H.C.315 dated 10.12.1919.

The 1st. order quoted by him was issued after the Officers' Meeting at Chikkaballapur ~~to him;~~ when it was brought to ~~him~~ that there were large stocks of Burma rice in all depots, and that sales were slack and local rice was getting cheaper. As at this time, the system in vogue in the District, was to issue rice to ticket-holders, and only to the extent of the quantity mentioned therein, in view the facts stated above, it was ordered, that this --- restriction need not be maintained , and the individuals may be given any quantity they liked, taking care that there was no attempt at profiteering. There is absolutely no mention therein of sales to "merchants", nor was there any idea, that the latter should be employed as an agency for the sales, which were being attended to purely through Government agency.

The other orders which are referred to by the Amildar are those which have also been quoted by the Sheristedar as his authority for his action, and have already been --- dealt with in detail by me in paras 7 and 8 supra. There is absolutely nothing in them, which could by any stretch of imagination, be construed as authorising him to make sales to merchants as he has done.

The first order in which sales to merchants were ---

suggested is the Food Controller's letter of the 21st. Novem-
-ber last.

But my order No.F.C.108 dated the 5th December 1919 is quite peremptory and express , and required report of action proposed to be taken to be submittedwithin 3 days, and orders obtained thereon, failing which the Amildar was told he --- would be held personally responsible. He made no report whatever though he was on duty till the 19th December 1919.

The last order however , viz., H.C. 315 dated the 10th December 1919, is the Government Order approving of the Reso-
-lutions of the Food Committee, regarding the sale to mer-
-chants after previous wide publicity , that the Government Depots would be closed, which was merely forwarded to the Amildar for information. This order reached him only on the 13th December 1919, while the sales to merchants actually commended on the 26th November 1919; for which therefore, there was absolutely no authority. The Amildar who has been in the Taluk for no less than 3 years , says he does not --- know Gangia though he is a local merchant, and throws the responsibility on the Food clerk, which shows that the Amil-
-dar was entirely in the hands of this petty official and exercised no control over him. When retail sales were going on in the Depot, where was the necessity to set up Gangia for sale purposes ? It is clear therefore, that the sales to merchants, which were allowed by the Amildar were absolute-
-ly unauthorised and unwarranted , and contrary to the --- spirit of orders and instructions issued to him from time to time.

He similarly failed to take any action regarding the wide publicity to be given about the closure of the Depots, as contemplated in my circular orders referred to in para 8 supra, which obviously would have enabled the needy people

and the Village Organisations, who could afford to purchase the supplies required by them, to go in for the stocks. --- Far from this, absolutely no action was taken in the mat-ter, and even the Townspeople, had been kept utterly in the dark, as to the intentions of the Taluk Officers regarding the wholesale disposals to merchants.

16. I would here invite special reference to extracts from my special Food Situation Report for week ending the 27th December 1919, which explains in detail, the principles and lines of policy pursued in the District, specially as regards wholesale disposals and sale to merchants; as also to extracts from Food Situation Reports for week ending the 6th and 20th December 1919, which will give an idea of the policy which has been impressed on the minds of all officers, and non-official members, both in meetings and by circular instructions, from the very commencement. I also enclose extracts from the Proceedings of the Kolar Hobli Conference dated the 1st. September 1919 and from my circu-lar order No.H.C. 315 dated the 13th August 1919 for ready reference.

Inspite of all this, it is strange that the Amildar and the Sub-Division Officer, thought it proper to recommend sales not merely to local merchants , but to those from Madanapalli, (vide Sub-Division Officer's camp No. 16 dated 18.12.19). Though the request of the Madanapalli merchants, as recommended by these Officers was not granted, yet it is sad to state that, as is apparent from the letter from the Punganoor Tahsildar, the quantity of rice thus recommendd, did some how filter through to Madanapalli, only though the agency of the local merchants and not direct from the Depot. I need not say that the reason of the fear of in-fection for the recommendation, assigned by the Amildar

and approved by the Sub-Division Office is not only far-fetched but seems quite fanciful. The Sheristedar in the course of the enquiry, admitted that this had not been done. The Amildar's plea that he personally informed all the --- usual customers about the intended closure of the Depots, and that he asked them to buy as much rice as they liked, must be rejected as an after-thought, as in the case of the Sheristedar, as is evidenced by the fact, that neither the Towns-people nor the Village Committees knew anything about this !

17. As regards the Depot clerk, Ragnayyah, when I visit-ed Srinivasapur on the 23rd September 1919, there was a loud complaint from the Towns-people, that the Food clerk refused to issue more than 8 annas and 4 annas worth of rice to people , whose tickets entitled them to receive double and treble the quantity , as per circular instructions, and that he was high-handed, and even assaulted them. The Amil-dar admitted short issues of rice to ticket-holders, but pleaded want of sufficient stock as the explanation. It was pointed out to him, that as per circulars, orders, a week's supply had to be issued to the ticket-holders, and that a month's supply for the poorest had to be ear-marked and set apart, the balance alone being made available for the others, and that therefore the plea raised by him could not be accepted. Neither the Amildar nor the Food clerk who were present, could give any satisfactory explanation, and the --- suspicion that the latter was selling away to merchants, the rice so with-held and saved, did not appear unfounded. The Amildar was accordingly asked to remove the clerk <u>forth-with,</u> and report to me by the next mail. As no report was received <u>till 9th October</u> (for 15 days), a detailed order

was that day issued to the Amildar from Camp Mysore, enquir--ing when Raghaviah had been removed , and who was put in -- charge. As no report was received from the Amildar till the 20th idem, (for another 11 days), I sent him a wire on that day again insisting on the immediate removal of Raghaviah, and report thereof to me by wire . It was only then and not till then, that the Amildar reported, that he had removed the Food clerk on that day, viz., 20.10.1919; Raghaviah had thus been allowed to continue as Food clerk for nearly a month , contra--ry to peremptory and repeated orders by the undersigned.

But a reference to the Depot Registers shows clearly, that what was thus reported to be a belated compliance with the orders, was as a matter of fact a deliberate lie, and an attempt to throw dust in the eyes of the authorities. For, Raghaviah even after this date continued as susual to do the work of the Depot &write out Accounts and Registers without any ~~work~~ whatever ! Not only this, but on the 14th November 1919 Amildar went a step further, and issued a memo giving a written official sanction , as if it were, to his irregularity.

. The Amildar's explanation is that without Ragha--viah it was not possible for him to go on with the work! This explanation needs no comment from me ! But this obsti--nate disobedience of orders on the part of the Amildar, his deliberately false and misleading report, that he had removed the clerk, while as a matter of fact the clerk continued to work as before , and his subsequently passing an official memorandum legalising his irregularity, show that he can hardly realise his reponsibility, and calls for serious --- notice.

Then his explanation for entrusting the sale of

rice to the Royalpad Ookad clerk, viz., that he could not get trustworthy men for the purpose, is similarly untenable. This conduct of the Amildar is also contrary to the circular in-structions already referred to in para 8 supra. The Sub-Division Officer, in his marginal remarks about this says, that he permitted the Amildar to do so. I fail to under-stand how this was done, contrary to stringent instructions iss[illegible]y the undersigned from time to time.

Next coming to the question of the responsibility of the Sub-Division Officer in the matter. In the Standing Food Committee Meeting on the 20th December 1919, the Sub-Division Officer admittedly represented the Srinivasapur Taluk as the Amildar was on leave. It was decided , and agreed to by the Sub-Division Officer, that Srinivasapur should retain 200 bags for local consumption, and the balance of 1300 bags should be given to Mulbagal, as the stocks had all been exhausted in the Depot there, and the demand was great. It was also decided, that retail sales should --- continue in the Depots, and that there should be no sales to merchants. The Sub-Division Officer who on his way to Chintamani from Kolar on the 21st. December 1919, met the Sheristedar at the Railway Station at Srinivasapur, did not give him any instructions regarding the decisions in the meeting at Kolar the previous day;--nor on the 25th and 26th when he was at Srinivasapur to preside over the Taluk Confer-ence.

Regarding the omission to give any instructions to the Sheristedar at Srinivasapur Railway Station on the 21st., the Sub-Division Officer makes no attempt at all at explana-tion, and avoids the point altogether. It may be observed here, that as the Sub-Division Officer was admittedly aware, that the Amildar had been granted leave , and the Sheristedar had been put in charge , it was obviously his duty, to have

asked the latter to come to Kolar to attend the meeting, especially as he met him at Srinivasapur on the 18th idem just prior to his departure to Kolar. Not only did he omit to do so, but he failed to communicate to the Sheristedar, the decisions of the Food Committee Meeting at Kolar, when he met him by appointment the very next day at the Station. Had he given him a single wordd of caution, it would have surely had the effect of pulling up the Sheristedar, and prevented him from getting himself entangled as has done.

21. About his failure to give any instructions to the Sheristedar during the Taluk Conference, over which the Collector pre-sided on the 25th and 26th idem, though as in the case of the previous point, he does not give a direct answer, yet from what he says in para 7 of his letter No. 498 dated the 7th February 1920, he wants to make out, that owing to the Conference and Exhibition works, he could not give any such instructions to him. To quote his own workds," It will thus be seen that my hands were quite full throughout the period of my stay (at Srinivasapur), and beyond the question of the apprehended closure of the Depot from the 1st. January 1920, no body felt any trouble. The Reading Room and the Taluk Cutcherry rooms were filled with rice bags, and I had also absolutely no time to speak or to say about any other matter, the absorbing work during the period and the rest of the days in that month being the Conference and the Exhibitions".

The above extract speaks for itself, though in some --- places what actually is meant to be expressed is not quite clear. It is however difficult to concede, that the "Sub--Division Officer had absolurely no time to speak or to say about any other matter " than the Conference and the Exhi--bition. As I have already observed as clearly his duty,

as explained in the beginning of this para, to warn the Sheriste-dar, at least verbally, about the decisions of the Food Committee Meeting at Kolar , which could not have occupied more than a couple of minutes at the most. This failure must be said to have enabled the Sheristedar to dispose of the rice in the manner as has --- done.

22. In this connection it has to be observed, that the Sub--Division Officer in para 5 of his report No. 498 dated the 17th February 1920, wants to make out, that on the 25th idem when he was on his way to the Amildar's house, just before the commencement of the Conference, one Syed Meeran Hussain , spoke to Him about the inconvenience that would be caused to the --- people, by the closure of the Depot, and that he at once replied to him, that he need have no fear, as the retail sales were --- intended to be continued, even after the 1st. Janaury 1920, and that the said Syed Meeran Hussain assured him that the Sheristedar was present at the time ! Thus all that can be presumed from this is, that the Sheristedar overheard the conversation between the Sub-Division Officer and Syed Meeran . It is markable however, that the query No. 4 which the Sub-Division Officer has asked the Sheristedar to explain, reasons as follows:---"What does the Sheristedar says to the statement of Mr.Syed Meeran Hussain that I had told the ---- Sheristedar also, concurring with his representation" The inconsistent nature of the report and the query is obvious. But I cannot omit to observe the strange form of the query it--self. The Sub-Division Officer does not make bold to say , that he spoke to the Sheristedar in the matter. He says that some private person makes a statement to this effect .! Apart from the fact, that the statement itself is not forthcoming, this very Syed Meeran Hussain was one of a host of those, who

complained to me in the course of the enquiries , to the ef-
-fect that though he mooted the question, both in the Conference
and outside it, neither the Sub-Division Officer nor the ---
Sheristedar gave him any assuring reply.

23. As regards the point referred to in para 5 of my ---
Official Memorandum , viz., about the representations on the
subject, that were made to the Sub-Division Officer, as Pre-
-sident of the Taluk Conference, the latter says, that the
question was mooted in the Conference.and he replied to the
effect , that the Depot sales were intended to be continued
for some time longer. But in this connection the Sub-Assis-
-tant Surgeon, who actually raised the question in the Confer-
-ence, Municipal Councillor Venkataramanabhatta, Syed Meeran
Hussain and a number of others, were positive that no definite
reply was given by the Sub-Division Officer. One of them, how-
-ever I believe Mr.Shama Rao , Municipal Councillor, said that
the reply the Sub-Division Officer gave was to the effect,
that a reference would be made to the Higher authorities. In
this connection the account of the enquiry, which is said
to have been held by the Sub-Division Officer , on the 17th
January 1920, on receipt of my Official Memorandum , as con-
-tained in the Sheristedar's explanation , pages 14 and 15
dated the 31st. January 1920, with the marginal remarks of
the Sub-Division Officer, specially deserve perusal. It
would seem the Sub-Division Officer sent for the Sub-Assis-
-tant Surgeon and Municipal Councillors, Messrs. Venkataramana
Bhatta and Shama Rao. As soon as the Sub-Assistant Surgeon
came, he was questioned , if the Sub-Division Officer did not
in the Conference, say, that it had already been decided at
Kolar, to continue the Grain Depot for some time more, and
when he replied in the negative, the Sub-Division Officer

remarked" How he would keep quiet without giving reply to the representation made"? After a few minutes, Mr. Venkataramana Bhatta came, and the question was repeated to him, and eli--cited a similar ereply, whereupon the Sub-Division Officer remarked that they were"Nice Municipal Councillors",. There--upon the Sub-Assistant Surgeon, rose and requested the Sub--Division Officer to with-hold his remarks , and said that he would swear before any God and Court that the latter never gave any reply to his representations, and then left the --- place in resentment !

Next came Municipal Councillor ,Mr. Shama Rao and being likewise questioned, stated that he remembered the Sub-Divi--sion Officer saying " A reference would be made to the --- higher authorities". The Sub-Division Officer again asked him to recollect , if he did not say, that it had already been settled at Kolar, that the Depot at Srinivasapur should be continued , and would accordingly be continued. Mr.Shama Rao repeated his reply as above.

It would seem that when all this was going on, there were present in the Katcherri retired Risaldar(I.S.Lancers) Mr. Fathulla Khan , Messrs: Meeran Hussain, Venkataramana Bhatta and some others. But some how the enquiry on this question was dropped, and these were neither questioned nor did they support the Sub-Division Officer.

After all this, it is impossible to visit the resist the feeling that the Sub-Division Officer, could not have given any such decided reply, to the effect that it had been de--cided that the Depot at Srinivasapur would be continued. In fact the Order No.R.H.C. 400 dated the 28th December 1910, --- which he issued to the Sheristedar, only 2 days after the Conference, at Srinivasapur, regarding the continuance of the

Depot Establishment after 1st. January 1920 , further negatives all presumption to the contrary. Instead of giving him any -- definite instructions to the effect , that the Depot should be continued after 1st. January 1920, as he should naturally have done, after what he says he gave out in the Conference, and --- after what had been decided at Kolar, he leaves the matter al--together in suspense and doubt , and wants the Sheristedar, to make a reference to the Undersigned direct, and obtain in--structions ! ! It is thus not possible to say, that he gave any definite reply as he says he did at the Conference.

24. As regards the consignments of paddy that were stopped at the Royalpad Ookad on their way to Madanapalli , but in --- which the Sub-Division Officer ordered, that the persons con--cerned may be excused, and the paddy may be sold locally, the explanation offered by the Sub-Division Officer in his No.... H.C.500 dated the 18th February 1920, is not easy to compre--hend. He seems to be confounding the question of transport within the 10 mile belt with that of export outside the State, and though admittedly aware of the intention and the attempt on the part of the accused, to export the paddy to Madanapalli, a clear offence under the Defence of India Regulation, he admits that he ordered the sale locally, and did not take any action against the accused. But what is worse , the so called sale locally was a mere farce , as it was to no others than to her own relatives(Vide para 6 of the Sub-Division --- Officer's report No.H.C.500 dated the 1st. March 1920.).

To add to this, according to the Sub-Division Officer's own showing, this was not the only case in which he let go the culprits !!

A responsible officer like the Sub-Division Officer, is expected to have better knowledge of the and to exercise a better discretion in the matter than is apparen

from his conduct.

25. I regret I have to observe in this connection , that the irregularities under advertance , have to be said to have been due, as much to the softness of the Sub-Division Officer, and his disposition to white-wash the doings of the erring Officials under him, and want of close supervision and a tight grip, as to the misguided tendencies of the Sheristedar , and the Food Clerks. To cite an instance or so. A petition con-taining allegations against the Food Clerk Raghaviah, was for-warded to the Sub-Division Officer on the 9th September 19 for enquiry and report, . Not having heard in the matter till the 23rd September 1919, I visited Srinivasapur on that date, so as to have an idea of the affairs there, prior to my pro-ceeding to Mysore for the Dasara. My enquiries disclosed, a number of most serious irregularities, on the part of the Depot clerk, which have been dealt with in para 17(supra). Yet the Sub-Division Officer who went there on the 25th idem, only 2 days later, has reported(Vide his report No.H.C. 299 dated 3.10.19) that his enquiries showed, that the petition was pseudonymous, and "The allegations which are of a general nature are unfounded."!! He then digresses ~~with~~ into a special --- pleading, regarding the onerous nature of the duties of the Food clerk, which are likely to offend people for nothing, and says that the Amildar also informed him that no allegations were ever made to him against the clerk. No records of enquiry are forthcoming , and no regular enquiry appears to have been held, though in my remarks on the petition I have noted as follows:--" Request the Sub-Division Officer to go forthwith, and hold a detailed enquiry and report." Now , comment on this is needless! The enquiries regarding the disposal of the stocks in the Srinivasapur Depot conducted , not only by the Undersigned and the Food Controller, but by the Sub-Division Officer himself

are enough to show the nature and significance of this report of the Sub-Division Officer. Had the latter made an honest attempt, at least on receipt of this complaint , to make some real enquiries into the allegations, and ascertain the truth, and take necessary action, against the Food Clerk, all this trouble , would in all probability, have been avoided. It is impossible to believe, that, if he had really asked the people about their grievances, he could possibly have remained ig--norant of the facts, that had come to my notice, only 2 days before ! It is impossible to believe again, that the Amil--dar, did not inform the Sub-Division Officer on the 25th -- September , what had transpired during my visit on the 23rd idem , and it passes comprehension that the latter made up his mind to make a report of this kind !!

Not only this, but my Memorandum dated the 2nd October 19 from Mysore Camp, detailing the result of my enquiry, and call--ing for the explanation of the Amildar , for not reporting the Food clerk's removal, inspite of telegraphic orders, was forwarded to the Amildar, through the Sub-Division Officer , and even then the latter took no effective steps against the Food Clerk. Under the circumstances , it has to be feared, that the Sub-Division Officer himself (just as much as the Amildar), was not somehow disposed to the removal of this --- clerk from the Depot charge. I may invite referrnce here, to the D.O. C.No. 49 dated the 19th February 1920, from the Sub-Division Officer, about this clerk Raghaviah which seems to be rather queer reading. The Sub-Division Officer , while referring among other things " To the part played by this clerk in connection with the disposal of rice in the Srinivas--pur Depot" etc., complains that he behaved in an impert--nent manner towards him, in the presence of the Amildar. But he does not make bold to dismiss him, nor to recommend his --- dismissal, nor even his suspension! In fact , he does not

somehow , evan accept the clerk's resignation, which he is said to have tendered. He simply recommends his transfer, and in do--ing so gives him, as if it were, a certificate for ability and skill, in the following words:--

" I do not want him for any other Taluks of my Sub-Divi--sion though he may be a clever Official "!!

26. In a case in which the Secretary of the Yeldur Co--operative Society , who had been entrusted with the purchase and sale of Burma rice on behalf of the Society was found sel--ling ½ a seer per rupee less than the rate at which he got the rice at the Taluk Depot, no more than 3 to 4 miles from the place, the Sub-Division Officer, to whom the complaint petition was sent for enquiry and report, seems similarly unwilling to take any drastic action against the Shanbhogue. While the --- records showed that the latter was guilty of cheating , crimi--nal breach of trust and falsification of accounts ,- Vide --- Note from the Prosecuting Inspector, Mr.A.Rangasami Iyengar, B.A.B, LL.B. dated the 21st.May 1920, (and orders have since been issued to the District Superintendent of Police to take necessary action against the Shanbhogue)- not to speak of the unconscionable rate at which he was selling rice to the public, the Sub-Division Officer's report, is on all fours,with With the one he had made against the Depot Clerk Raghaviah -- after his so called enquiries ! Here also he says , the Amil--dar told him that no complaints were made to him against this Shanbhogue, and here also he indulges in a sort of special --- pleading for the Shanbhogue, and while remarking , that none of the Office-bearers of the Society could say why they allow--ed the Shanbhogue to sell at the higher rate. not withstanding their resolution, goes on to add " Apparently they though that gunny bags were mere dead stock"!! In another place he says

that in the accounts, he finds mention made of the loss of --- Rs. 14-8-0 by the Patel, when he went to the Taluk Office for purchasing rice for the Society , and adds "Apparently it was intended by the Shanbhogue to cover up this loss by selling rice at a deduction of half a seer per rupee from the Depot rate" !! , and for all this, he says" He also censured Soma--sundaraiah for having given occasion to complaint and for not keeping his management above board."

27. It does not seem necessary to refer here to the --- inordinate delay, that occurred in the Sub-Division Office, in giving effect to the Government Order suspending Mr.Rama Rao. The order from the District Office dated the 21st January 20 though it reached the Sub-Division Officer the very next day viz., 22nd January 1920, was not communicated to the Amil--dar till the 29th i.e., for one full week, and till 2 days after the visit of Food Controller to Srinivasapur, and his enquiry about it ! The whole record gives an impression, that for some reason or other, there was an at empt somewhere , to postpone divulging the news about the order of suspension of the Sheristedar as long as possible .

28. It is also rather remarkable that the Sub-Division Officer, who received my Memorandum No.C. 495 dated the 11th January 1920 on the 13th , did not somehow hand over a copy, or at least extracts therefrom , to the Sheristedar and de--mand his explanation. On the contrary, he framed certain queries of his own, on the 17th idem, which the Sheristedar was asked to explain. The queries themselves are rather --- queer, and seem to have been framed more or less as a sort of self-defence for the omission to give any instructions to the Sheristedar. To quote one of these "What does the Sheriste--dar say to the statement of Mr.Syed Meeran Hussain that I had told the Sheristedar also, concerning his representation

There was then a crowd following me! In fact even as regards the explanation called for on the Food Controller's observa--tions, the Sub-Division Officer has thought fit to take --- a similar line of action, and his attempt, to dispute the correctness of the Food Controller's remarks, by taking a note from the Amildar seems to be wanting in propriety.

29. I am constrained to observe that the Sub-Division Officer, has unnecessarily multiplied records , and rendered them bulky, by making one record run into another ; and by importing therein a lot of irrelevant matter, unconnected with the points at issue. It would have been more graceful , if he had approached the point straight, without adopting a --- round about and icuitous line of action for his defence. It would also have saved much time and labour, and avoided --- this lengthy report. A perusal of the records and enclosures with the marginal remarks, I have had to make thereon, will bear ~~only~~ these ~~remarks~~ . But all the same I regret this un--avoidable delay.

30. Regarding the conduct of the two Food Clerks , I am issuing necessary orders.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your most obedient servant,

Deputy Commissioner,

Kolar District.

PP 6-5-17 Confidential 70
SL 413.

Proceedings of the Government of H.
the Maharaja of Mysore.

Read:-

Correspondence ending with letter No. C. 779, dated 4th July 1920, from the Deputy Commissioner, Kolar District, forwarding with his observations the entire records relating to the irregularities in the disposal of stocks of rice at Srinivaspur.

2. Unofficial Note dated 27th September 1920, from the Food Controller in Mysore, on the above.

3. Unofficial Note dated 4th November 1920, from the Revenue Commissioner in Mysore, on the same subject.

Order No. 40093-8

Dated Bangalore, 23 Nov. 1920

From a perusal of the entire record ~~of~~ agree with the Food Controller is of opinion that the several irregularities in the disposal of stocks of rice at Srinivaspur, could have been possibly averted if the decisions of the District Food Supply Committee meeting held on the 20th December 1919, had been promptly communicated to the Taluks. It is very much to be regretted that no orders on the subject was issued by the Deputy Commissioner nor any step taken to inform the Taluk Sheristedar in time of the Resolutions of the meeting. The Deputy Commissioner appears to have simply relied

11

n the expectation that the Sub Divi-
ion Officer (Mr. Chakrapani Iyengar,
hintamani Division) would issue the
ecessary instructions to the Sheristedar!

1. Mr. Chakrapani Iyengar seems to have slept over the matter and did not realise the importance of the affairs and the inconvenience that would result by this omission on his part to issue timely instructions to the Sheristedar in the matter. It is furtner noticed that he did not concern himself much in the Food Supply arrangements and in the working of the grain depot. Although he was present at the meeting of the Food Supply Committee and knew the resolutions passed therein, he did not think it necessary to give any instructions - either oral or (verbal) - to the Sheristedar regarding the disposal of rice while he was actually staying at Srinivaspur after his return from the meeting, and he appears to have left the management of the whole affair to the Sheristedar under the direct instructions from the Deputy Commissioner himself. Government note with much regret this lack of interest and responsibility on the part of Mr. Chakrapani Iyengar which has resulted in the aforesaid irregularities and direct that their displeasure communicated to him.

2. As regards the responsibility of the Amildar (Mr. Aravamudu Iyengar), it is observed that he was absent on leave and had no hand in the affair and - -

and consequently is not to blame. But as his work in other was reported to be very unsatisfactory and as he was reported to be ~~much~~ wanting in capacity to ~~maintain~~ cope with the responsible ~~post~~ of Amildari ~~that was~~ entrusted to him, Government have ~~xk~~ already ordered his removal from the Amildari and reversion to his permanent appointment, They do not consider it necessary to take any further ~~notice of his conduct~~ action.

4. In the case of the Taluk Sheristedar (Mr. K.S. Rama Rao) it is quite evident that his action regarding the disposal of stocks was not bona-fide and was in all probability actuated by corrupt motives. He appears to have acted on his own responsibility without receiving any definite orders from his superiors in the matter of the disposal of the stocks in question. Moreover, ~~in spite of his being~~ although he was cognisant of the Amildar's communication dated 7th December 1919 to the Deputy Commissioner expressing his desire to reserve some stocks and continue sales for some months more and ~~in spite of his being~~ also aware of the dissatisfaction ~~exhibited~~ among by the people of Srinivaspur at the hasty sale of the stocks, he never troubled himself to know what decisions had been arrived at by the Committee nor did he ~~care to receive~~ seek for any instructions in the matter. It appears as though he purposely avoided taking instructions from the Sub Division Officer ~~xxxxxx~~ when he was

present in the Taluk. Further, he did not at all submit the report called for by the Deputy Commissioner in his order dated 15th December 1919. In view of these derelictions of duty on the part of Mr. K.S.Rama Rao to act with circumspection, discretion and due sense of responsibility, Government direct that he be removed from the Taluk Sheristedar's post and transferred to a less responsible appointment on a reduced pay for a period of one year.

in addition suspension ordered can be treated as punishment as will not debar any future post service

Chief Secy. to Govt.

15/11/20

20.11.20

To

The Revenue Commissioner
The Food Controller
The Deputy Commissioner, Kolar
The Comptroller to Govt.
The Secy. to Revenue Department.